NEW HEIGHTS

THIS LIFE UNDER THE SUN – A Study in Ecclesiastes

*WHEN LIFE IS UNFAIR – **Ecclesiastes 4:1-16***

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Have you ever looked at your circumstances or someone else's and thought, **"Life is not fair!"?**

Life is not fair! And if we are not careful, unfairness can change us.

- The person who was once compassionate becomes cold because people took advantage of their kindness.
- The person who was once content becomes jealous because they are tired of watching everybody else get ahead.
- The person who was once generous becomes selfish because they gave so much and received so little.
- The person who used to trust people begins to build walls because somebody they loved tore their heart apart.

The danger of an unfair world is that we can become so focused on what is wrong **around us**, that we lose sight of what is happening **within us**.

When life is unfair there is injustice.

> Again, I saw all the oppressions that are done under the sun. And behold, **the tears of the oppressed, and they had no one to comfort them!** On the side of their oppressors there was power, and there was no one to comfort them. And I thought the dead who are already dead more fortunate than the living who are still alive. But better than both is he who has not yet been and has not seen the evil deeds that are done under the sun. **Ecclesiastes 4:1–3**

Action: When others abuse their power, trust God sees you. When you see injustice show Christ-like compassion.

When life is unfair, there will be envy.

> *Then I saw that **all toil and all skill in work come from a man's envy of his neighbor**. This also is vanity and a striving after wind. The fool folds his hands and eats his own flesh. Better is a handful of quietness than two hands full of toil and a striving after wind.*
>
> ***Ecclesiastes 4:4-6***

Action: When others have blessings, learn contentment.

When life is unfair, it can lead to isolation.

> *Again, I saw vanity under the sun: **one person who has no other,** either son or brother, **yet there is no end to all his toil**, and his eyes are never satisfied with riches, so that he never asks, "For whom am I toiling and depriving myself of pleasure?" This also is vanity and an unhappy business.*
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> ***Ecclesiastes 4:7-8***
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> ***Two are better than one**, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him - a threefold cord is not quickly broken.* ***Ecclesiastes 4:9-12***

Action: Build a life worth living, choose what matters most.

When life is unfair, recognition comes and goes.

Better was a poor and wise youth than an old and ***foolish king who no longer knew how to take advice****. For he went from prison to the throne, though in his own kingdom he had been born poor. I saw all the living who move about under the sun, along with that youth who was to stand in the king's place. There was no end of all the people, all of whom he led. Yet those who come later will not rejoice in him. Surely this also is vanity and a striving after wind.* ***Ecclesiastes 4:9–16***

Action: Stay humble, and live for God's approval, not man's.

Who will you become when life is unfair?

Will you allow the brokenness of this world to make you more like the world, or will you allow the grace of God to make you more like Jesus?

Life may not be fair, **but you can still be faithful**.